



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



FEBRUARY 2024

INSIDE:

- Ash Wednesday & Lent
- February Events at Trinity
- Underwear Drive
- Council Highlights
- ELCA Missionary Support
- 2024 Stewardship Campaign

Worship

Sundays at 9 am
Lent Wednesdays at 7 pm
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

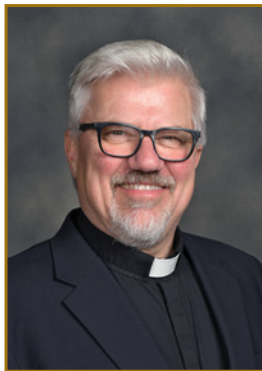
Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children's Ministry	Hannah Rosholt
Children's Ministry	Chelsea Farniok
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
Financial Administrator	Mary Jech

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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About In Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ Romans 15

Can I talk about Christmas for a moment? Yes, I know we're long past the gatherings, the celebrations, the music, and the food – it's all a distant memory now. But what about the gifts? Are there gifts you received that were especially

fun or meaningful? I ask that question because I'm thinking about a song written by John Prine called "Souvenirs":

"All the snow has turned to water, Christmas days have come and gone, Broken toys and faded colors are all that's left to linger on."

I love Christmas as much as the next person, but the reality is that the celebration comes and goes and we can be left with a feeling of "broken toys and faded colors." That feeling can be especially true as we continue on through the cold, dark days of winter. The good news in all of this is that the gifts that God gives do not fade and they never break. God's Spirit is with us every day, long after the celebrations end, filling us with hope, joy, and peace. In fact, we actually abound in hope, just as Scripture says, so that we have more than enough to go around!

May you abound in hope today, tomorrow, and in all the days to come!

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14

Service at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We'll gather to hear a word of hope and peace, even as we are reminded of our limited lifespan here on earth: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Lent Midweek Services

Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20

Light Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

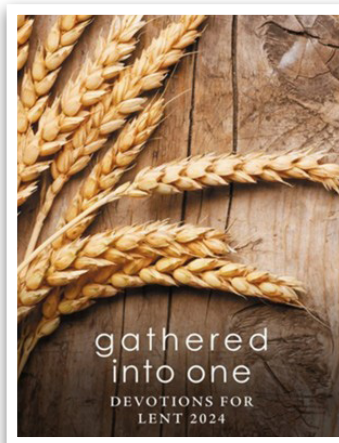
Services at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

We will continue our Lenten observance through February and March each Wednesday night when we gather for supper that will be served from 5:30 - 6:30 pm, and then with worship from 7:00 - 7:30 pm.

Our Lenten theme this year is "Gathered into One", and we'll be focusing on how God pulls us all together into one family of faith. Our differences and our diversity actually make for a beautiful harmony of hearts, minds, and voices that work together to share the light of Christ.

Our theme verse is from 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27: *For just as the body is one and has many members, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

Many thanks to our speakers for sharing their stories of faith at these services: Steve Boylan, Dave Hendricks, Nina Kirkman, Jason Koets, and Nancy Stello.



Lenten Devotional Books

We invite you to spend time in prayer during this Lenten season with a special devotional book called "Gathered into One". Devotions begin with a brief passage from First Corinthians and offer pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers. Devotional books will be available in the Narthex and the Welcome Center (outside the church office) in February.



Holden Village in 2024 Meeting

Sunday, February 4 | 10:00 am
Pioneer Room

Seeking rest and renewal? Holden Village, a Christian retreat center in the Cascade Mountains in Eastern Washington State allows you to unplug from your daily to-dos and connect with yourself and others. If you are interested in doing that with a group from Trinity this summer, come to the meeting and learn more.



Valentine Pasta Dinner Fundraiser for the 2024 Trinity Youth Mission Trip

Sunday, February 11
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a fundraiser to support the Trinity Youth Mission Trip to Duluth this summer. The mission trip is organized through Serve Boldly, a ministry of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. The pasta meal will be prepared and served by the families of the kids going on the mission trip. Meal tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance by mission trip participants or at the door. Be sure to buy \$1 raffle tickets at the event for an exciting variety of prizes. The raffle drawing will take place at 12:30 pm. Come for a great meal and help support Trinity Youth!

Please contact Sara Stutsman at [sstutsman@gmail.com](mailto:ssstutsman@gmail.com) or 952-237-7812 if you have questions or if you would like to donate a raffle prize.



High School Youth Group Event: Lenten Supper, Family Feud & Worship

Wednesday, February 21
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Pioneer Room

Trinity youth in grades 9-12 are invited to church to eat the Lenten supper together at 5:30 pm, play Family Feud in the Pioneer Room from 6:00 - 6:55 pm, followed by Lenten worship at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there! If you plan to join us, please sign up at www.trin.org under EVENTS.



Trinity is having another Underwear Drive in February!



We're doing it again! Just like last winter, we're collecting new underwear of all sizes to donate to Central Lutheran Church's "Free Store" in Minneapolis. This store is open every Monday to anyone who has unmet needs, and they can always use underwear! You are invited to bring in new packs of underwear from kids to adults sizes. Drop donations off in the special "Undie Bin" at our Donation Station at the main parking lot entrance. Last year we collected over 100 packages of underwear. Let's see if we can top that this February!



Thursday, February 15 | 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall

Join Trinity's OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Fellowship Group as we welcome Trinity member, Hubie Widmer, who will speak about his experiences over 42 years with the Fire Department. All "older" and/or "wiser" Lutherans and friends are invited to attend.

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Adam William Kirkman
Son of Red & Nina Kirkman
Baptized on
January 14, 2024

FUNERAL

Betty Brabec
9/23/1940 - 1/9/2024
Memorial Service on
January 14, 2024

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Gwen Dalchow

Cemetery ~ \$170
Undesignated ~ \$20
Music / Choirs ~ \$150
Quilting ~ \$5

Stan & Doris Hendricks

Cemetery ~ \$1,000

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 15, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund summary December 2023

Beginning balance
12/1/2023: -\$ 31,959.11
Operating Fund income: \$ 63,609.20
Operating Fund exps: \$ 32,162.01
Net balance (Dec.): \$ 31,447.19

General Fund balance as of
12/31/2023: -\$ 511.92

2023 operating fund EXPENSES
exceeded INCOME by \$2,451.13.
We start 2024 with an operating
fund balance of -\$511.92.

Building Fund expenses:
Internal Loan Payment: \$ 5,000.00
Loan balance: \$ 70,000.00

Cash Summary:
Bremer: \$95,077.15
(includes \$1,653.40 for Dec. federal withholding and \$14,321.96 in hail damage receipts)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 116,482.31

M/S/C Corky Ibeling / Tammy Vraspir / carried

Comments:
• 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area Synod amounted to \$3,816.55.

• Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1,243.28 (up about \$485.00 from November).

• Slightly over \$10,000 came in designated for the A/V update.

PASTOR'S REPORT

A beautiful new year has started and what a great ending to the old year. In December we celebrated all the familiar traditions. Christmas Eve Services were all well attended, even with the unusual circumstances of the day falling on a Sunday. Many thanks to all the musicians, ushers, readers, and other leaders who helped with these gatherings.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign will kick off after the annual meeting on January 28 and will wrap up with a Celebration Sunday on February 18. The theme this year is "Lift High the Cross". Many thanks to Alyson Blakstad, Dave Hendricks, Shiree Hirsch, and Jim Sandquist for their leadership.

OLD BUSINESS

- Audit committee in the process of the financial audit.
- Annual Meeting will be on January 28 following worship (onsite and online).

NEW BUSINESS

- Synod Assembly will be held May 2-4 at Lord of Life Church in Anoka.
- Pastor Andrew Ronnevik from St. Paul was recommended for Trinity's new missionary. He and his family will be moving to Papua New Guinea soon. Recommendation made and carried that Trinity will support the missionary work of Pastor Andrew Ronnevik moving forward.

Meet Trinity's New ELCA Missionaries Rev. Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik



Trinity has a long history of supporting Lutheran missionaries who serve around the world. We used to support Rev. Phil Knutson, who served in South Africa, but he retired last year. We also supported Rev. Beth Johnson, but she recently left her position in Cameroon and moved to the Twin Cities.

So now, we now have a new missionary to support! Rev. Andrew Ronnevik currently lives in St. Paul, but will soon be teaching at the Lutheran Seminary in Papua New Guinea. He and his wife Meredith, along with their two children, have roots in Minnesota and already have connections with Trinity. First, he was the supervisor for Kim (Cassidy) Kylo when she served her internship at First Lutheran Church in Bemidji. And Pastor Jeff met him last fall when he played with the Fleshpots of Egypt at the Dubliner – he was actually one of the original members of the bluegrass band when he was a student at Luther Seminary. We are glad to be supporting his missionary work.

You can sign up to support Rev. Andrew & Meredith Ronnevik by adding your name to the calendar in the back of the sanctuary and giving your gift to the church office. You can also give on Trinity's Online Giving page under 'Special Gifts'.



Trinity's Altar Guild is Welcoming New Members

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group whose ministry is to care for the altar. If you are interested in helping with the Altar Guild or have questions, please contact Eileen Nelson at 952-807-4857 or Liz Hirsch at 651-402-4758.



2024 Stewardship Campaign

Do you remember last spring when we dedicated our brand new steeple and cross that stands high above our faith community? It reminds us that we truly are called to live out these words from the hymn, *Lift High the Cross*:

***So shall our song of triumph ever be,
Praise to the Crucified for victory!***

In the coming days we'll be embarking on our Annual Stewardship Campaign for 2024. The focus for this year's campaign is very simple: Lift High the Cross! These words remind us of the power of the cross of Christ. The cross is a symbol of community. The cross is a symbol of sacrifice. The cross is a symbol of unity. When we "lift high the cross," we are actually lifting up the power of God that unites us around the mission we all share: to love God and to love our neighbor.

Keep your eyes open for a mailing with more details about this year's Stewardship Campaign. And make sure to join us for worship on Sunday, February 18, when we all lift high the cross together, as one community of faith!

God's Peace,
The Trinity Stewardship Team



➤➤➤➤ Last Month in Pictures

From snow tubing and volunteering at church to building trust in Sunday School and enjoying fellowship over soup and chili, Trinity members were busy shining God's light last month!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy Birthday Jacob Rowan Henry Blakstad Mary Gallus	2 Happy Birthday Troy Hecksel Kenzi Gohman	3 Happy Birthday Terrance Johnson
4 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Holden Village Mtg 10 am	5 AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Eric Prigge	6 Quilters 9 am Happy Birthday Eleanor Rundell	7 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Diane Jorgensen Nathan Ragner	8 Happy Birthday Courtney Matson	9 Happy Birthday Joyce Harding Mark Huber Leah Vraspir	10 Happy Birthday Shelly Becker John Diesman Jackson Drahos Jeffrey Engholm
11 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Youth Fundraiser 11 am - 1 pm Happy Birthday Sean Bolea Eric Scanlon	12 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	13 Quilters 9 am Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Hope Berscheit Ava Danielson	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Prayer 12:30 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Happy Birthday Adrienne Quinlan Tucker Ritter	15 OWLS 10 am Finance Committee 6:30 pm Happy Birthday Heather Berscheit Scott Cassidy	16 Happy Birthday Lucas Matson Braxton Williams Brevin Williams	17 Happy Birthday Fred Thomson
18 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Happy Birthday Nathan Kirkman	19 AA Meeting 8 pm	20 Quilters 9 am Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Carter Christensen Kevin McCain Audrey Ress Theo Rosholt	21 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Youth Games 5:30 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Happy Birthday David Filek Alice Gersema Ben Ragner Elena Salonek	22 Housekeepers 9 am Happy Birthday Lois Hendricks Nels Tuvey	23 Happy Birthday Kaden Blacketter Brielle Hirsch Amanda Lohmann EllaMae Neaton	24 Happy Birthday Randy Berhow Debra Dummer
25 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	26 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Mitchell Erickson	27 Quilters 9 am Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Dave Durkin	28 Prayer 12:30 pm Lent Supper 5:30 pm Worship 7 pm Worship Choir 7:45 pm Happy Birthday Cecilia Sieling Kameron Tufte William Brown	29 Tidings 9:30 am Happy Birthday Ethan Thonn Samuel Tronnes		

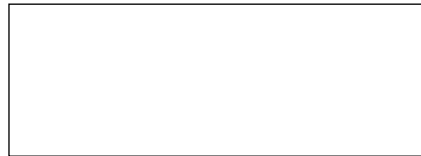


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Learning to Forgive

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it's a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, "Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Likewise, forgiveness doesn't simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it's "an act of volition," said Simon Wiesenthal, "and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision."

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. "Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power," she says. "On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward from the anger and resentment to be a better version of yourself."